Funding agricultural research for increasing food productivity

1816. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural research is paving the way for second green revolution, but agriculture today suffers from lack of fund and low productivity;

(b) if so, what are the main steps Government propose to take to fund the agriculture sector;

(c) whether any concrete action-plan has been prepared for improving the food productivity; and

(d) what are the details of the same and by what time it would be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Sustained agricultural development and increasing the profitability of farmers is the major focus of research under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). This includes development of hybrids and high yielding varieties alongwith associated production and protection technology, improving soil health and enhancing input use efficiency. Recently, Indian Council of Agricultural Research has launched the National Agricultural Innovation Project with an outlay of about Rs. 1200 crores. Further, a project on "Seed Production in Agricultural Crops and Fisheries" with an outlay of Rs. 198.89 crores is in operation to enhance the production of quality seeds, planting materials, fingerlings etc. For development of transgenics in crops, initiatives have been taken through launching a Network Project with an outlay of 32.85 crores. Efforts has also been made for conducting basic and strategic research through a number of network projects such as gene pyramiding, molecular breeding, diagnostics etc. In addition, a National fund for basic and strategic research in agricultural sciences to build capacity and for supporting research has also been launched.

MSP for Paddy

†1817. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to offer more than 8 per cent of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.